

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF: Wills et al.

OUR FILE NO: 10-579 US

SERIAL NUMBER: New Application

GROUP: New Application

FILED: New Application

EXAMINER: New Application

TITLE: VARIABLE OPTICAL ATTENUATOR

Information Disclosure Statement

July 25, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement (Form PTO-1449) in the above-captioned application with references.

Certification

X This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted within three months of:

- (i) the filing date of the above-identified U.S. National Patent application, or
- (ii) the date of entry into the U.S. National Stage of the above-identified International Application, or
- (iii) the date of entry into the U.S. National Stage of the International Application that has been assigned the above-identified U.S. Patent application number, whichever applies.

_____ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits received by Applicant in the above-identified application.

_____ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after three months from

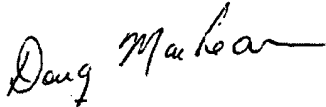
- (i) the filing date of the above-identified U.S. National Patent application, or
- (ii) after three months from entry into the U.S. National Stage of the above-identified International Application; or
- (iii) the date of entry into the U.S. National Stage of the International Application that has been assigned the above-identified U.S. Patent application number, whichever applies; and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, but prior to issuance of the earlier of any Final Action or Notice of Allowance sent in such application. The certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) is submitted separately or below, or the fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and § 1.17(p) is submitted herewith.

_____ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the earlier of the mailing date of a final rejection or Notice of Allowance sent in this application but before payment of the Issue Fee. The certification required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is submitted separately or below. A petition to the Commissioner and the appropriate fee pursuant to §1.17(i) (1) are submitted herewith.

- _____ A certification under 37 C.F.R §1.97 is submitted herewith separately from this paper.
- _____ It is hereby certified that each item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- _____ No item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No: 20-0345.

Yours very truly,



Doug MacLean
Regn No: 48,096

Please associate this application with Customer No: 24949

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Form PTO 1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant	ATTY. DOCKET NUMBER: 10-579 US	SERIAL NUMBER: New Application
	APPLICANT: Wills et al.	
	FILING DATE: New Application	GROUP: New Application

U.S. Patent Documents

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILED APP
		4,410,238	Oct. 18, 1983	Hanson	350	357 E	
		5,963,291	Oct. 5, 1999	Wu et al.	349	196	

Foreign Patent Documents

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO

Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED
<i>EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant</i>		